

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Collisions Continue to Decrease on SR 395 Blue Bridge**

In 2008, the Washington State Patrol's Kennewick Detachment has been working on a Problem Oriented Public Safety (POPS) project to address the historically high number of traffic collisions on the SR 395 Blue Bridge in the Tri-Cities.

Troopers have conducted continuous emphasis patrols in the area of the Blue Bridge using marked patrol cars, unmarked patrol cars, and motorcycles. In addition to an increase in enforcement, troopers have partnered with the Washington Department of Transportation to implement alterations to signage, roadway markings, and other design elements in order to more effectively control traffic in the area.

The SR 395 Blue Bridge POPS project started in January of 2008 and will continue through the end of the year. The statistics below represent the number of total violator contacts made and the number of collisions in the area of the SR 395 Blue Bridge from January 2008 through September 2008. Violator contacts have increased by 169% and the number of collisions has decreased by 22%.

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
Violator Contacts	810	2177	+169%
Total Collisions	107	83	-22%
Injury Collisions	16	18	+12%
Non-Injury Collisions	91	65	-29%

There are currently lane restrictions on SR 395 in the area of the Blue Bridge due to roadway construction. Troopers will continue to conduct emphasis patrols in this area to provide a safe driving environment within the construction zones.

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